

Amendments to the Description

Please replace the paragraph on page 1, lines 17-20 with the following paragraph:

All of the 48 human genes encoding the ABC transporters have been cloned and sequenced (www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov; www.humanabc.org). Of these genes, 16 have known function and at least 14 have been associated with a defined human disease.

Please replace the paragraph on page 11, line 28 to page 12, line 2 with the following paragraph:

The term "ABC transporter genes" refers to nucleic acid sequences encoding the ABC transporters, for example the human ABC transporter genes. There are currently 48 known human transporters, which have been cloned and sequenced (www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov; www.humanabc.org). The discovery and confirmation of new ABC transporter genes are ongoing. ABC transporter genes in this application are intended to include unknown ABC transporter genes, which will be discovered or confirmed in the future.

Please replace the paragraph on page 35, lines 5 to 10 with the following paragraph:

The NCBI (www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov)—and BCM search launcher (www.searchlauncherbcm.tmc.edu)—websites were used to verify PCR primer identity with the ABC transporter gene region of interest. BLAST sequence searches and alignment analyses were completed for each PCR primer pair and PCR amplicon to ensure minimum cross-hybridization with other known genes and other known ABC transporter genes.